

Alamo Heights Fire Department Supports Home Safety Month

by Captain Darren Smith

Fire Departments are first on the scene at fires, as well as other causes of home injuries. The Alamo Heights Fire Department is joining the Home Safety Council in its call to action and supporting Home Safety Month this June in Alamo Heights to help reduce all types of home injuries. An average of nearly 20,000 deaths and 21 million medical visits result in the U.S. each



year from unintentional injuries suffered at home. Most home injuries can be prevented. The Alamo Heights Fire Department and the Home Safety Council would like to remind residents to keep injury prevention tips at the top of your mind, beginning with these summer safety suggestions:

Assign a "Pool Watcher" at Your Next Pool Party

Every child needs supervision around water, especially during family get-togethers and parties with lots of children. The Alamo Heights Fire Department urges residents with swimming pools to formally assign an adult to watch children at pool parties this summer. For parties with a lot of children, assign more than one adult to this job. It's never OK to let children supervise other children around water. And remember: pool watchers must stay awake, stay sober and keep their eyes on the kids.



Safe Storage of Yard and Garden Chemicals

The Alamo Heights Fire Department is reminding residents to check their storage of pesticides, automotive fluids, pool chemicals, and other dangerous products. According to the non-profit Home Safety Council, more than half of all poisoning deaths occur at home and poisoning is the second leading cause of preventable home injury deaths. Make sure your yard and garden chemicals are stored in their original containers. If young children live in or visit your

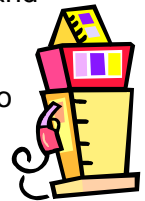


home, each container should have a child-resistant cap. Store dangerous chemicals and products in locked cabinets and post emergency numbers by every telephone, including 9-1-1 and the National Poison Control Hotline, 1-800-222-1222.

Gasoline is a Motor Fuel Only

Gasoline is highly flammable. You cannot see its vapors, yet they spread quickly and can be ignited by even a tiny spark. Alamo Heights' residents are being asked to use caution when using gasoline, and to follow these important safety measures:

- Gasoline is a motor fuel – any other use is reckless
- Use only an approved, tightly sealed container to store and transport gasoline
- Re-fuel mowers, chainsaws, etc. outside, only after the engine has cooled, and away from sparks and flame
- If you need to siphon gasoline, use a suction device, never siphon by mouth
- In the event of a gasoline fire, immediately move away and call the Alamo Heights Fire Department emergency number, 9-1-1.



To learn more about preventing home injuries, contact the Alamo Heights Fire Department 824-1281 www.ci.alamo-heights.tx.us or visit the Home Safety Council's comprehensive Web site: www.homesafetycouncil.org. Free safety guides and checklists are among the home safety information for the public.